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FINAL PROJECT IN TRANSLATION (1)

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What is research?

Research has been defined in a number of different ways.

* Research is defined by Martyn Shuttleworth (2008) as any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge.

* Another definition of research is given by J. W. Creswell (2008) who states that Research is a process of steps used to collect and analyze information to increase our understanding of a topic or issue.

It consists of three steps:

1) pose a question,

2) collect data to answer the question, and

3) try to find an answer to the question by adopting different methods.

* The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (2011) defines research in more detail as an examination (either investigation or experimentation) aimed at

1) the discovery and interpretation of facts,

2) revision of accepted theories in the light of new facts, or

3) practical application of such new or revised theories.

Why do people do research?

1) to deepen their understanding of how they arrive at what is considered to be ‘knowledge’.

2) to learn how to distinguish between opinions or common ideas, and ‘knowledge’ or ‘facts’.

3) to develop critical thinking skills.

4) to learn how to think and approach your work logically.

4) to learn how to plan your work and organize your time.

5) to learn how to develop certain skills that we use to investigate a topic.

Steps in conducting research

Research is often conducted by taking into account the following steps:

1) identifying the **area** that you are interested in
2) choosing a **topic** + **narrowing** it **down**
3) identifying **research problem**
4) **plan** your research (chapter 1, chapter 2, chapter 3, etc. __ of course you may well change)
5) doing **literature review + note taking**
6) modifying your topic and research problem, plan, etc. if necessary
7) specifying **the purpose of research**
8) determining specific **research questions**
9) specifying a conceptual framework - usually a set of **hypotheses**
10) adopting a **methodology** (for data collection)
11) collecting **data**
12) **analyzing** and **interpreting** the data
13) **reporting** and **evaluating** research
14) communicating the research **findings** and, possibly, suggesting **recommendations**

Notes on the steps

* These steps generally represent the overall process; however, they should not be viewed as a fixed set of steps.

* Most researches, not all of them, begin with a general statement of the problem, or rather, the purpose for engaging in the study.

* The literature review identifies flaws or holes in previous research which provides justification for the study.

* Often, a literature review is conducted in a given subject area before a research question is identified. A gap in the current literature, as identified by a researcher, then engenders a research question.

* The research question may be parallel to the hypothesis. The hypothesis is the supposition to be tested. Researchers normally collects data to test the hypothesis. Researchers then analyze and interpret the data via a variety of statistical methods, engaging in what is known as Empirical research.

* The results of the data analysis in confirming or failing to reject the Null hypothesis are then reported and evaluated.

* At the end the researcher may discuss avenues for further research.

Good research

1) has a good research question (narrowed down + not researched)
2) is well-organized and presented
3) is consistent
4) adopts suitable methods
5) has a good language
6) is well-documented
7) is internally coherent
8) is externally coherent
9) has good conclusions and recommendations
10) contributes to the field.

Common mistakes

1) some students believe that a research project is a personal essay about their opinions and ideas = then **it is not externally coherent.**

2) some students believe that a research project is just a summary of books and articles = then **there is no research question(s) and/or hypotheses.**

3) some students believe that writing a piece of research is just collecting long quotes or paragraphs = then **you, as a researcher, are absent.**

Types of research (in translation)

In translation, there are two types of research projects:

1) **a Piece of Research**

should have:

* an abstract, objectives and/or significance of the study, a research question(s) or, hypotheses, literature review, methodology, conclusions, etc.

2) **a Translation Project.**

needs to be divided it into three main parts

* **an introductory chapter** in which you discuss the text type, generic conventions, purpose of translation, readership, global strategy adopted by the translator and the type of equivalence achieved.

* **chapter two** in which the source text along with the translation are presented.

* **chapter three** in which the translator's comments are categorized into different aspects, such as **grammatical, lexical, phraseological, idiomatic, pragmatic, cultural, stylistic, semiotic**, etc. depending on the text type.

NOTE: at the end of both types, you need to write a list of references.

Thank you

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